Getting into a College That’s Right For You

Abu Noaman

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Agenda

> College Basics
> Common Education Paths
> Five Criteria for Getting Into College
> Deciding Which College is Right for You
> 10 Myths
> Key Takeaways
College Basics
Purpose

Learn something that the market needs

Get along with others

Handle ups & downs of life calmly

Ethical Mindset

Professional Skills

Creative Intelligence

Social Intelligence

Emotional Intelligence

Synthesize ideas
Degrees Offered

- 2-Year Associates
- 4-Year Bachelors
- 3+2 Programs
Programs

Liberal Arts

Professional
Liberal Arts Degrees

English
- Literature
- Creative Writing
- Women's Studies
- Cultural Studies

Art
- Fine Arts
- Media Art
- Music
- Drama
- Performing Arts

History
- US
- African
- European
- World

Science
- Biology
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Astronomy
- Psychology

Humanities
- Religion
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Anthropology
- Political Science

Languages
- Linguistics
- Foreign Languages

Mathematics
- Mathematics
- Statistics
- Actuarial Sciences
Common Educational Paths
Traditional Paths

A. 4-Year Bachelors → 1-3 Year Masters

B. 2-Year Community College → 2-Year Public/Private → 1-3 Year Masters

C. 4-Year Bachelors → 1-3 Year Masters → 3-5 Year Ph.D.
Professional Paths

A. 3-5 Year Bachelors → 3 - 5 Year Professional Masters/Doctorate → 1-3 Year Practicum

B. 5 Year Bachelors → 1-3 Year Practicum
Change

Your Parent’s Generation

engineering, medicine, business

single major

Bachelors was a must

Now

anything you want to be

dual majors

Masters is a must,

Doctorate is better
Five Criteria for Getting Into a College
#1: Grades Determine Scholarships & Grants

> Colleges are in an arms race for the best students

> Higher the grades, the more merit scholarship colleges will throw at you
#2: Test Scores Determine School Set

> Colleges are in an arms race for the best students

> Higher the scores, higher the scholarship
#3: Athletics Pay Off

> Coaches recruit directly
> Colleges are in an arms race for the best athletes
> Colleges view it as a sign of leadership and social skills
> In many colleges, a third of enrolled students are athletes on full scholarship
#4: Internships + Volunteering + Clubs Help

- Either are fine; all are better
- Anything is better than nothing
- Shows Leadership

![Diagram showing 1 or 2 in anything, for references, and shows maturity]
#5: Memorable Essays Win

- Show quality of thinking
- Reveal your uniqueness
- Revise it at least 7 times
- Have a great writer review yours
Deciding Which College is Right for You
Size

- Small: Less than 3,000 students
- Medium: Less than 10,000 students
- Large: More than 10,000 students
Fit

> Offers your major(s)
> Meets your financial needs
> Makes you feel comfortable
> Stretches you
> Offers opportunities for extraordinary experiences
> Creates a network for lifelong friends
10 Myths
Myth #1

> Science, technology & engineering are not for girls

Reality

> Half the students in most STEM schools are now girls
Myth #2

> Bright low-income kids shouldn’t apply to good schools

Reality

> All elite colleges and foundations will pay your way through college if you are bright, low income kid
Myth #3

> Private schools are expensive

Reality

> They also offer the best scholarships and grants because of their endowments
Myth #4

> Employers only value professional degrees

Reality

> Tech giants are hiring liberal arts graduates in large numbers
Myth #5

> Colleges are recruiting the best students

Reality

> Colleges are recruiting future successful alumni
Myth #6

> Colleges are teaching you ethics

Reality

> Colleges only teach you professional, creative and social skills
> Families and religious schools teach you ethics
Myth #7

> You should apply to a dozen or more colleges

Reality

> Apply to 3 aspirational schools, 3 sure-shot target schools, and 2 backup schools
Myth #8

Community colleges are for people who can’t get into 4-year colleges

Reality

They are now an affordable stepping stone towards a 4-year college degree.
Myth #9

> For-profit colleges are a great alternative option

Reality

> They are pricey, have the lowest graduation rates, and highest percentage of their graduate aren’t able to repay their college loans
Myth #10

> Undergraduate college matters

Reality

> The terminal degree matters most
Myth #11

> College tour is optional

Reality

> It’s the only way to find out if your child will be happy there
Key Takeaways
For Students

> Get good grades & test scores
> Volunteer early in high school
> Have great writers review your essay
> Seek colleges that are best-fit for you
> Befriend your college counselor
> Take advantage of athletic, STEM, humanities and merit scholarships
> Aim high. Aspire to be the best at what you do.
For Parents

> Stay involved in your kid’s college search process
> Visit colleges in your kid’s junior year in high school
> Help your kids strategize on school selection
> Talk to your kids about realistic expectations: financial, size, location, fit, religious, etc.
> Don’t rely solely on overworked college counselors
> Encourage your kids to aim as high as possible
> If you work for a college, avail tuition benefits
Good Books

- *Colleges That Change Lives* by Loren Pope
- *On Writing the College Application Essay* by Harry Bauld
- *A is for Admission* by Michele A. Hernandez, EdD
Scholarships

Gates Millennium Scholars

TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIP

JACK KENT COOKE FOUNDATION
Questions?
Abu.Noaman@gmail.com